

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /067 W
-----070303Z 088652 /73

R 051507Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9692
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: SUAREZ INTERVIEWED BY "DER SPIEGEL"

SUMMARY: IN HIS INTERVIEW WITH "DER SPIEGEL" PRIME
MINISTER SUAREZ APPEARS TO HAVE LEANED TOWARD IDENTIFY-
ING HIMSELF IN THE ELECTIONS WITH THE POLITICAL CENTER
GENERALLY, BUT WITHOUT PRESENTING HIMSELF AS A CANDIDATE.
END SUMMARY.

1. THERE FOLLOW HIGHLIGHTS FROM SPANISH PRESS EXCEPRTS
OF AN INTERVIEW WITH PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ WHICH TOOK
PLACE LAST WEEK AND REPORTEDLY WAS PUBLISHED APRIL 4
BY THE WEST GERMAN WEEKLY "DER SPIEGEL."

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2. A SUAREZ CANDIDACY? "IN PRINCIPLE, I CAN TELL YOU I
WOULD NOT LIKE TO RUN AS A CANDIDATE." BUT THAT IS NOT
TO SAY THAT I WILL NOT MAKE CLEAR WHICH "POLITICAL
CONCEPTIONS" ARE CLOSEST TO MY WAY OF THINKING AND LIVING.

3. THE CONSTITUENT PERIOD. THE OVERRIDING TASK OF THE

NEW PARLIAMENT WILL BE THE ELABORATION OF A NEW CONSTITUTION. CONSEQUENTLY, MY PRINCIPAL CONCERN IS NOT WHETHER TO RUN OR TO CONTINUE AS HEAD OF GOVT.; THE ONLY IMPORTANT TASK FOR ME AT THIS TIME IS TO "GUARANTEE THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM," AND THIS TASK WILL NOT BE COMPLETED WITH THE COMING ELECTIONS (I.E. IT WILL CONTINUE THROUGH THE DRAFTING OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION).

4. SPAIN'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS HAS ITS ROOTS IN RECENT YEARS, NOT MONTHS; IT IS NOT OUR POLICY OF DEMOCRATIC REFORMS WHICH HAS CAUSED IT. "...I SEE NO SENSE IN ADOPTING TODAY...CONCRETE MEASURES WHICH WITHIN FOUR OR FIVE MONTHS WOULD HAVE TO BE APPROVED BY A NEW PARLIAMENT. IN MY OPINION THE MOST URGENT MATTER IS THE INSTITUTION OF A FISCAL REFORM WHICH WILL DISTRIBUTE MORE EQUITABLY THE (ECONOMIC) BURDEN."

5. ROLE OF THE MILITARY. "THE ARMED FORCES HAVE NOT ASSUMED POLITICAL POSITIONS AND ARE ONLY AT THE SERVICE OF ALL THE SPANISH PEOPLE AND THE KING AND, NATURALLY, THEY WILL SERVE THE GOVT ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE." IF IN FREE ELECTIONS, A SOCIALIST GOVT WERE CHOSEN, THE ARMED FORCES "WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY ACCEPT THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE." (HE WOULD NOT MAKE THE SAME OBSERVATION ABOUT A COMMUNIST VICTORY, WHICH IS IN ANY EVENT OUT OF THE QUESTION.)

6. NO TURNING BACK ON REFORMS. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION AS TO WHETHER AN "ALIANZA POPULAR" VICTORY IN THE ELECTIONS WOULD BLOCK THE REFORM PROCESS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUAREZ STATED THAT HE DID NOT SEE ANY WAY THAT THE PROCESS WOULD BE DERAILED, REGARDLESS OF THE IDENTITY OF THE ELECTION VICTOR.

7. THE MOTOR OF THE PROCESS. THE SPANISH PEOPLE ARE THE SPIRITUAL FATHERS OF DEMOCRATICATION, BUT IT HAS BEEN THE MONARCHY, WHIT WHOM THE PEOPLE HAVE COMPLETELY IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES, WHOSE EFFORT TO INTEGRATE ALL SPANIARDS HAS MADE IT POSSIBLE AND SET THE PROCESS IN MOTION.

8. SPANISH SOCIALISM. I WOUUD BE COMPLETELY SATISFIED IF SOCIALIST UNITY WERE ACHIEVED. I ASSURE YOU, AS I HAVE ASSURED THE SOCIALISTS THEMSELVES, THAT THE GOVT. DOES NOT HAVE THE SLIGHTEST INTENTION OF DISCRIMINATING AMONG PARTIES; WE HAVE SIMPLY ATTEMPTED TO "CORRECT THE CURRENT SITUATION." AS FAR AS THE CONTRETEMPS OVER THE LEGALIZATION OF THE PSOE-H, THE COURTS WILL MAKE THE FINAL JUDGMENT IN THIS CASE.

9. LEGALIZATION OF THE COMMUNISTS. "I AM FAMILIAR WITH THE STATUTES PRESENTED BY THE PCE, AND PERSONALLY I FIND THEM ACCEPTABLE." OBVIOUSLY, ONE CANNOT JUDGE THE COMMUNIST INTENTIONS. "THE PCE MUST DEMONSTRATE ITS DEMOCRATIC ATTITUDE THROUGH REALITIES, DEEDS AND CONDUCT." (AN OFFICIAL GOS NOTE HAS DENIED AN INTERPRETATION OF SUAREZ'S REMARKS RENDERED YESTERDAY BY "DIARIO 16," IN WHICH THAT AFTERNOON DAILY STATED THAT SUAREZ "NOW SAW THE GOVT'S WAY CLEAR TO LEGALIZE THE PCE." ACCORDING TO THE NOTE, THE READING OF THE COMPLETE TEXT OF THE INTERVIEW, WHICH IN ANY CASE TOOK PLACE BEFORE THE COURT RETURNED THE CASE TO THE GOVT, DEMONSTRATES CLEARLY THAT HE NEVER SAID OR IMPLIED ANY SUCH THING.) EATON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, PERSONAL OPINION, ELECTION RESULTS, PRESS CONFERENCES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MADRID02617
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770120-1180
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770487/aaaacxyc.tel
Line Count: 130
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f41fefa9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2895226
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUAREZ INTERVIEWED BY "DER SPIEGEL" SUMMARY: IN HIS INTERVIEW WITH "DER SPIEGEL" PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ APPEARS TO HAVE LEANED TOWARD IDEN
TAGS: PINT, SP, (SYAREZ GONZALEZ, ADOLFO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f41fefa9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009